

I therefore conclude that the hæmal arch is not homologous throughout the Vertebrata, as it may be formed by the ribs alone (*Amia*), by the parapophyses or parapophyses and ribs (*Teleostei*), or by mere ventral processes of the centra or intercentra; that the "hæmapophysis," as an element, does not exist; and that the interpretation I have given to the chevrons of Reptiles is correct.

XVII.—*On the Tadpole of Pelobates syriacus, Boettger.*
By G. A. BOULENGER.

AMONG some Batrachians from Syria which their collector, Professor J. Barrois, has kindly sent me, were four large tadpoles, which I should have pronounced as of *Pelobates fuscus*, were it not for the locality whence they were procured—the immediate environs of Damascus. Now, the *Pelobates* of Syria which, in its perfect condition, stands much nearer to *P. cultripipes* than to *P. fuscus*, has recently been described by Dr. Boettger under the name of *P. syriacus*; and I therefore feel justified in applying that name to these tadpoles, although I am unable to point out any character of importance by which they are to be distinguished from the common species, *P. fuscus*.

The nostrils are equally distant from the eyes and the end of the snout; the distance between them equals one half the interocular width, which equals once and a half to once and two thirds the width of the mouth. The tail is nearly thrice as long as deep, acutely pointed, once and two thirds to twice the length of the body. The beak and lips agree entirely with *P. fuscus*.

The largest specimen measures 120 millim. Length of body 42, width of body 25; length of tail 78, depth of tail 28.

I may add that I have received from Prof. R. Collett a young specimen of *P. syriacus*, stated to be from Smyrna.

XVIII.—*Notes on the Changes of Plumage in the Red Grouse*
(*Lagopus scoticus*). By W. R. OGILVIE GRANT.

So many books have been written on British Birds that it seems curious any new facts regarding the sexual differences or changes of plumage in our common species should still remain unrecorded or only imperfectly described.

Some time ago, in two articles published in the columns of